

SAFETY ALERT

Faulty Sabre CABA units

INCIDENT

Two dual Sabre brand BA Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA) units were delivered to the Mine Safety Technology Centre for examination. These units are reported to have been abandoned underground during an escape from an incident.

On examination, it was noted that there was flexibility in the T-piece that joins the two compressed air bottles (located near the bottle valves).

On one unit there was an obvious curve in the T-piece between the two bottles.

Both CABA units exhibited flexibility in the T-piece.

It is possible that the T-piece could be stressed every time the equipment is moved or bumped.

A failed T-piece can be easily detected as there are significant air leaks when the unit is operated.



CABA unit showing curved connection - should be straight



CABA unit with T-Piece removed from housing



CABA unit showing broken connection

RECOMMENDATIONS

- All mines should check this type of equipment for faults and contact their suppliers for further information.
- Review handling procedures for CABA units.

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations. This Safety Alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's notice board.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Regan'.

Rob Regan
DIRECTOR
MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH
NSW TRADE & INVESTMENT

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